

First Semester 2018-19
Wednesdays, 10.50-12.25
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www.romestudy.org/creation.html

The course examines the meaning of the universe in Christian perspective. It explores various different possible approaches to the nature of reality and then sets out the Christian perspective as it developed from the patristic era, through the middle ages, to today. The third part of the course engages in dialogue with modern science as well as with new age approaches in order to explore various possibilities in the Church's teaching on creation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to express coherently:

- Various historical understandings of the nature of the world
- What the Bible says and does not say about creation
- How creation out of nothing is a significant development in understanding the world
- An overview of various Christian approaches, both patristic and medieval
- An account of the Catholic understanding of (a) the human person, (b) evil, (c) contemporary scientific discoveries and their relationship to theological claims, (d) various spiritual theories and new age approaches
- A summary of the current Catholic doctrine of creation in the light of *Laudato Si*
- A Trinitarian account of creation

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. October 10: The nature of the world and the human being
2. October 17: The Bible and Creation
3. October 24: Assessing Cosmologies and the significance of *creation ex nihilo*
4. October 31: Patristic perspectives
5. November 7: Medieval perspectives: Dominican and Franciscan approaches
6. Saturday, November 17 (10.50-12.25): Early modern perspectives
7. November 28: Contemporary issues I: The human
8. December 5: Contemporary issues II: Evil
9. December 12: Contemporary issues III: The world, theology, and science
10. January 9: Contemporary issues IV: Mystical theories and new cosmologies
11. January 16: *Laudato Si* and current doctrine
12. January 23: A Trinitarian theology of creation

Exam: February 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018.
- Levering, Matthew. *Engaging the Doctrine of Creation: Cosmos, Creatures, and the Wise and Good Creator*. Ada, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.
- Moo, Douglas J. and Moo, Jonathan A. *Creation Care: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.
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- McFarland, Ian A. *From Nothing: A Theology of Creation*, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.
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